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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/759,884

01/15/2004

David Wayne Spears

SPEAD-80546

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EXAMINER

FRENEL, VANEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3687

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/31/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/759,884	Applicant(s) SPEARS ET AL.	
	Examiner VANEL FRENEL	Art Unit 3687	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15 and 17-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15, 17-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/06/10 has been entered.

Notice to Applicant

2. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed on 11/13/09. Claims 10 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-9 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 10-15 and 17-28 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goel (2008/0052185) in view of Mesaros (7,181,419) and further in view of McBrayer et al. (7,499,871).

As per claim 10, Goel discloses a computer readable storage medium encoded with computer program instructions which when accessed by a computer cause the computer to load the program instructions to a memory therein creating a special purpose data structure causing the computer to operate as a specially programmed computer, executing a method of dynamic release date (See Goel, Paragraphs, 0482; 0858, 1043), comprising: creating in the specially programmed computer database a target release date (See Goel, Paragraphs 0482, 0858, 1043).

Goel does not explicitly disclose transmitting to an interface of the specially programmed computer the target release date and a target number of advance orders; receiving a number of advance orders from a plurality of advance purchasers; transforming the target release date into an actual release date when the number of received advance orders from advance purchasers equals the target number of advance orders.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Mesaros. In particular, Mesaros suggests that the computer readable medium having transmitting to an interface of the specially programmed computer the target release date and a target number of advance orders (See Mesaros, Co1.22, lines 17-67 to Co1.23, line 44); receiving a number of advance orders from a plurality of advance purchasers (See Mesaros, Co1.22, lines 17-67 to Co1.23, line 44); transforming the target release date into an actual release date when the number of received advance orders from advance purchasers equals the target number of advance orders (See Mesaros, Col.29, lines 36-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Mesaros within the system of Goel with the motivation of providing buyers and sellers may concurrently sponsor a deal room/transaction to aggregate selling of and purchasing of goods/services by a plurality of sellers and buyers respectively. For example, multiple sellers and buyers may employ the present invention to create a deal room/transaction forum where a plurality of sellers and buyers may assemble to aggregate selling and buying of specific goods and/or services that the sellers wish to sell and the buyers desire to purchase (See Mesaros, Co1.2, lines 23-34).

In addition, as best understood, Mesaros and Goel disclose all of the limitations above.

Mesaros and Goel do not explicitly disclose wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes offering incentives to potential purchasers to submit advanced orders.

However, this feature is known in the art, as evidenced by McBrayer. In particular, McBrayer suggests that wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes offering incentives to potential purchasers to submit advanced orders (See McBrayer, Figs. 4-6; Col.6, lines 56-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of McBrayer within the teachings of Mesaros and Goel with the motivation of providing the web-based marketplace application for suppliers comprises an interface that allows suppliers to review and collect information

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about opportunities to fulfill orders, such as for engineered-to-order products. They may review information regarding current and past purchase order activity with the company, current quality and delivery information on their own companies and their peers, and documents (required and optional) for conducting business with the company. They may also review general and specific information regarding their transactions with the company (See McBrayer, Col.2, lines 30-37).

As per claim 11, Goel discloses a computer readable storage medium wherein the target release date is for the release of at least one of a compact disk and a dvd (See Goel, Fig.78).

As per claim 12, Goel discloses a computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 10, wherein the target release date is a release date for a movie (See Goel, Paragraph 1255).

As per claim 13, Goel discloses a computer readable storage medium wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes the step of advancing the target release date to a second, earlier revised release date when the target number of advance orders is received (See Goel, Paragraph 0280).

As per claim 14, Goel discloses a computer readable storage medium, wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes the step of setting a goal and,

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when both the goal is met and the target number of advance orders is received, advancing the target release date to a third revised release date that is earlier than the second revised release date (See Goel, Paragraph 0950).

As per claim 15, Goel discloses a computer readable storage medium wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes resetting the target release date to a second target release date when the target number of advance orders is not received prior to the target release date (See Goel, 0280).

As per claim 16, Mesaros discloses a computer readable storage medium wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes offering incentives to potential purchasers to submit advance orders (See Mesaros, Col.20, lines 13-27).

As per claim 17, Mesaros discloses a computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 10, wherein the method includes providing goal feedback information to at least some of the advance purchasers (See Mesaros Col.11, lines 55-67 to Col.12, line 1).

As per claim 18, Mesaros discloses a computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 10, wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes transmitting to an interface of the specially programmed computer a target release date, a target number of advance orders, and a second release date, wherein the target

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release date becomes an actual release date if the target number of advance orders is received, and the second release date becomes the actual release date if the target number of advance orders is not received (See Mesaros, Col.11, lines 55-67 to Col.112, line 1).

As per claim 19, Goel discloses a computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 10, wherein the method of dynamic release date further includes releasing a product to advance purchasers on the actual release date, and releasing the product to other purchasers at a later release date (See Goel, Paragraph 0280).

Claims 20-28 recite the same limitations as claim 1 above are therefore rejected for the same reasons, and incorporated herein.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 1/06/10 with respect to claims 10-15 and 17-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VANEL FRENEL whose telephone number is (571)272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vanel Frenel/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3687

March 15, 2010